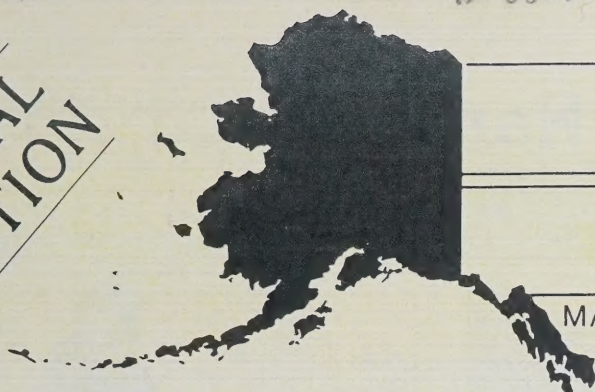


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VI

September 29, 1971 - March 31, 1984**Alaska BLM State Director, Curtis V. McVee Retires**

September 29, 1971 - Director Burton Silcock administers the oath of office to Curtis V. McVee as Mrs. McVee holds the family bible.

Curtis V. McVee, BLM Alaska State Director for the past 13 years, will retire March 30, 1984. "I feel there is no better place to work than in Alaska" he said. "It is with mixed emotions that I have decided to retire."

McVee has worked for Alaska BLM since 1967 when he came from Washington, D.C., to accept a dual position as chief of resources and assistant state director. It was a trial position at the time to see whether an assistant state director was needed. McVee was named assistant state director in 1969 and in 1971 became Alaska state director.

During the 13 years McVee has been Alaska state director, he has received both the Department of Interior's Meritorious and Distinguished Service Awards and twice received the Senior Executive Service's Meritorious Award.

McVee earned his degree in range management from Montana State University. His first permanent BLM job was

in Billings, Mont., in 1950; and most of the early years of his career were spent working on grazing programs in Mont. He was promoted to assistant district manager for the Miles City, Mont. district in 1955; and in 1960 he became district manager in Ely, Nev. Prior to coming to Alaska, McVee spent four years working on soil and watershed development in Washington, D.C..

A recognized international authority on problems related to permafrost and construction in the arctic, McVee has represented the U.S. Government twice in scientific meetings in the Soviet Union.

McVee and his family plan to stay in Alaska for the next few years. "My family has established roots in Alaska. We fell in love with the state when we came and really enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, hunting, river running, and skiing."

From the Montana Range...



Curtis McVee, Glasgow High School

Curtis V. McVee was born to Lillian and Virgil McVee on March 11, 1929. He grew up on his father's cattle ranch on the plains outside Glasgow, Montana. His wife Joyce says, "Curtis and I went to school together in Glasgow and have known each other since first grade. Curtis' family lived on a ranch 12 miles north of Glasgow, and I grew up in town. Each winter Curtis' mom moved the kids into town so they could go to school; they lived just down the block from us. Curtis and I started dating in the latter part of high school.



Joyce Nakken, Glasgow High School

"Curt finished high school early and went on to college at Montana State University at Bozeman (right). He was an excellent student both in high school and in college." During high school and college summer vacations he worked on his father's ranch assisting with operations. Curt majored in civil engineering his first two years but later transferred to the range management program and received his bachelor of science degree in animal husbandry in 1950. Curt and Joyce were married in 1949.

The last summer before graduation Curt worked for BLM as a range aide on a Missouri River Basin inventory crew working in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming. His first BLM boss, Burton Silcock, later preceded Curt as Alaska state director. After graduation Curt was hired full time by BLM in Billings, Mont., where he and Joyce lived until the army drafted him in February 1952.



photo by Burton Silcock

Curt received his basic training at San Luis Obispo, Calif., and graduated from the Army Still Photo Technical School. After five months there he was transferred to Ft. Eustis, Va., to serve as photographer with the Army Public Information Office. After his stint there he was sent to Korea where he headed up the photo lab at the Eighth Army Headquarters in Seoul. He was later attached to an Eighth Army photo combat team.

While Curt was in Korea, Joyce stayed with relatives in Glasgow. Six weeks after he left home, Mike, their firstborn, made his entrance into the world. Gone for an entire year, Curt wasn't able to see Mike until the youngster had learned to walk and talk.

Curt sent home lots of pictures of the places where he lived and the things he was doing while serving as Eighth Army photographer in Korea. Joyce kept communications going between them, however, by writing daily and sending pictures of the baby whenever she could. "The kids still love to look at Dad's pictures of his Korean days," Joyce said.

Photography became an important part of Curt's life as a result of his Army training. He even keeps his father's first camera prominently on display in his office.

After returning from Korea in early 1954, Curt joined BLM again, this time in Whitehall, Mont., some 30 miles from Butte. The family lived there for a year before Curt was relocated to the district office in Miles City, Mont. Most of his early years with BLM were spent working on range projects, grazing leases, and fighting fires. While in Miles City he was promoted to assistant district manager, and here is where their second son Mark was born in 1959.

In 1960 Curt was elevated to district manager for the Ely, Nev. district. The third McVee youngster, Tom, was born during their three-year stint there. The family then moved to Washington, D.C., where Curt worked on the soil and watershed program for four years.



Upper Pillette Ranch on the Greybull River in Meeteetsee, Wyo. Range aide Curtis McVee and a fellow employee prepare to "round em up and move em out"!

photo by Burton Silcock



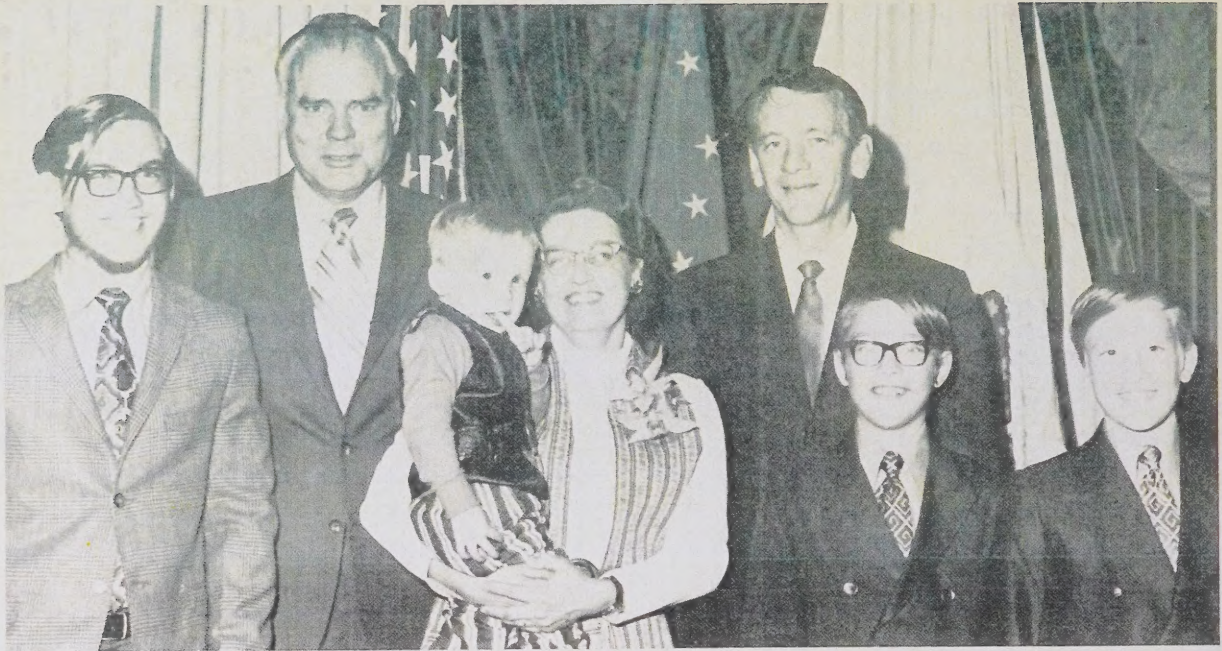
Summer, 1949 - Range aide Curtis McVee (right) listens carefully to Paul Crouten's (left) instructions as they work on Missouri Basin Range Surveys.

photo by Burton Silcock



All in the line of duty! Curtis McVee crosses the Greybull River. (1949)

To Alaska Tundra...



September 29, 1971 - The McVee family with Director Burton Silcock at Curt's installation as state director.

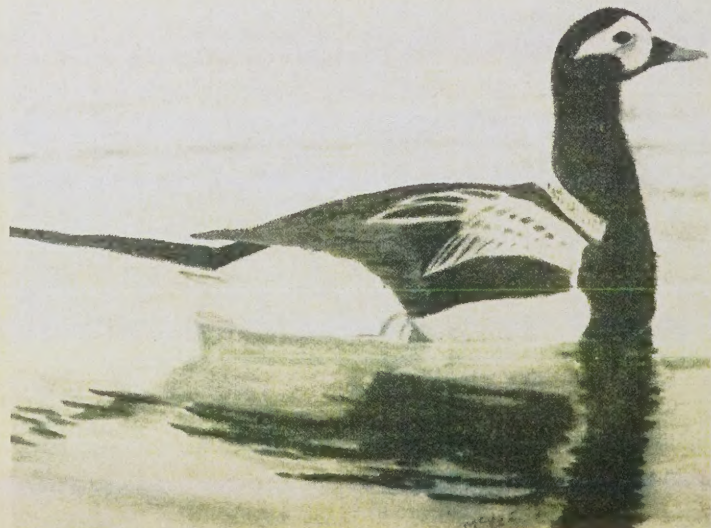
July 15, 1967, Curt, Joyce and the boys arrived in Alaska; two days later they started working with a builder to have a house constructed. Joyce says, "I've loved every place we've lived and never minded moving as long as the family was together. But Curtis wanted to be within ten minutes driving distance from work after four years of commuting over an hour each way while working in Washington, D.C."

"Our youngest son Matt was born here in 1969. He is now a freshman in high school. Our third son Tom is a professional ski instructor and manages Alaska Professional Ski School which runs schools at Arctic and Hilltop. "Our second son Mark graduated from the University of Idaho at Moscow in December 1983, with a degree in wildlife biology and zoology and is applying to medical schools. Our oldest son Mike and his wife Corrine live here in Anchorage. Mike teaches physics at Bartlett High, and Corinne teaches music in grade school."

The whole family cross-country and downhill skis. During the summer they fish and camp. Curt and Joyce both bowl every week year round. Curt also sketches in charcoal and is an accomplished photographer.

Joyce says, "Curtis has really enjoyed the responsibility and challenges that his job as Alaska BLM state director has given him. We hope to stay in Alaska until Matt graduates from high school. After that we may build a house on our land in Sequim, Wash."

One of Curtis McVee's favorite hobbies is doing charcoal drawings of wildlife.



esday, November 28, 1975, Anchorage Daily Times 19

6 Anchorage Times, Tuesday, February 17, 1976

Youth Symphony Association Names McVee President

Curtis McVee has been elected president of the Anchorage Youth Symphony Association, incorporated this month as an auxiliary to the youth group which is directed by Frank Pinkerton.

Vice president of the group of friends and parents of youth symphony members is Bob Smith. Nancy Schmidel is secretary and Kathy Padgett is treasurer.

A ways and means committee will be chaired by Lloyd Lindsay. Miriam Hettler will chair a committee on tours and scheduling. Joyce McVee and Marilyn Sloan will head a membership committee and Phil Howarth will serve as publicity chairman.

McVee says that general membership in the association is open to all persons interested in supporting the youth symphony activities. Sponsor and patron memberships are available to persons and organizations better able to give financial assistance than time, he says.

Publicity, ticket sales and refreshments for the symphony's Dec. 5 concert at West Anchorage High School are the



CURTIS McVEE

group's concerns at present.

Three more concerts are planned for later this year.



PLANNING FOR SYMPOSIUM

The American Society for Public Administration is sponsoring a symposium titled "Land: Bridge to Community" this week. Looking over plans for the symposium, which began today, are, from left, Dr. Douglas Stark, program consultant; E. Michael Brunet, president of the society's Southcentral

Alaska Chapter; Curtis V. McVee, Bureau of Land Management state director, and Mrs. John H. Worgum, a chapter councilman. The symposium, which is open to the public, continues tomorrow and Thursday in room 123 of the Senior Academic Building at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

B-4 The Anchorage Times, Saturday, November 15, 1980

The Anchorage Times

Award, \$10,0

by Betty Ratterman
Times Writer

A meritorious senior executive award plus a bonus of \$10,000 is good reason to celebrate any day of the week.

Curtis V. McVee, state director of the Bureau of Land Management, is one of two Alaskans to receive such an award. Keith Schreiner, the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is the other.

Fifty or more guests came to honor Curtis and his wife Joyce with a pot luck dinner a week ago Friday at the home of Carl and Joan Gidlund. A number of the guests there were enthusiastic friends and co-workers of Curtis, who happily shared his jubilation.

Some of those who came were Clay and Jerry Beal (Clay is the Chugach National Forest supervisor); Clint and Susan Andrews; two of Curtis's former secretaries, Barbara Freeman and Ruby Patton and her husband Pat; L.T. "Peanuts" Main and any number of others from the Bureau of Land Management division.

The director was cited for speeding up conveyances of land to both the state government and native corporations.

★ ★



Alaska Bureau of Land Management Director Curt McVee and Arctic Slope Regional Corp. President Joseph Upickson sign the order which conveyed three million acres of land from the federal government to the corporation under the Alaska Native Claims

Settlement Act. Jacob Adams second from the right director of land for the corporation, and Bob Sorenson, chief of the BLM's branch of lands and minerals, watches the signing. The parcel of land is as big as the state of Connecticut. AP Wirephoto.

BLM Picks McVee As Acting Head

Curt McVee, 42, associate director of the Bureau of Land Management for Alaska for the last four years, took over Wednesday as acting director.

Burton Silcock, who left Anchorage Wednesday night en route to Calgary, Alta., will report next Tuesday to his new job as director of the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C.

Silcock, who has been state director of the federal bureau for Alaska for the past six years, was named to the top BLM post by Interior Secretary Rogers C.B. Morton.

Morton made the announcement in Anchorage last week during his week-long inspection tour of Alaska.

Silcock will be in charge of all public lands in the nation — nearly two thirds of which are in Alaska.

McVee Wins Service Award

Times Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Interior Department, citing his work in implementing the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, yesterday awarded Curtis V. McVee of the Bureau of Land Management its highest honor.

McVee was presented the distinguished service award by Interior Secretary Thomas S. Kleppe during ceremonies which honored several other employees and private citizens.

McVee was praised by Kleppe for "superior professional leadership as a key federal operating official in the field of resource management and administration with the Bureau of Land Management."

"McVee has displayed a rare combination of administrative and technical skills to carry out effectively the provisions of the native claims settlement act," the citation read. "In his major involvement in the largest transfer of ownership of lands from public to private holdings in history, he has pioneered a new era in cadastral surveying with highly successful results."

Kleppe also noted the "close and cordial relationship" McVee has with Alaskan native groups.

In addition, the department said McVee displayed outstanding leadership in the development of environmental stipulations for the trans-Alaska pipeline.

McVee is an internationally recognized expert on permafrost problems in relation to land use planning and management, Kleppe said, and represented the U.S. at the international conference on that subject in Yakutsk, Siberia, in 1973.

The certificate was awarded as a tribute to McVee's record of achievement, Kleppe said.

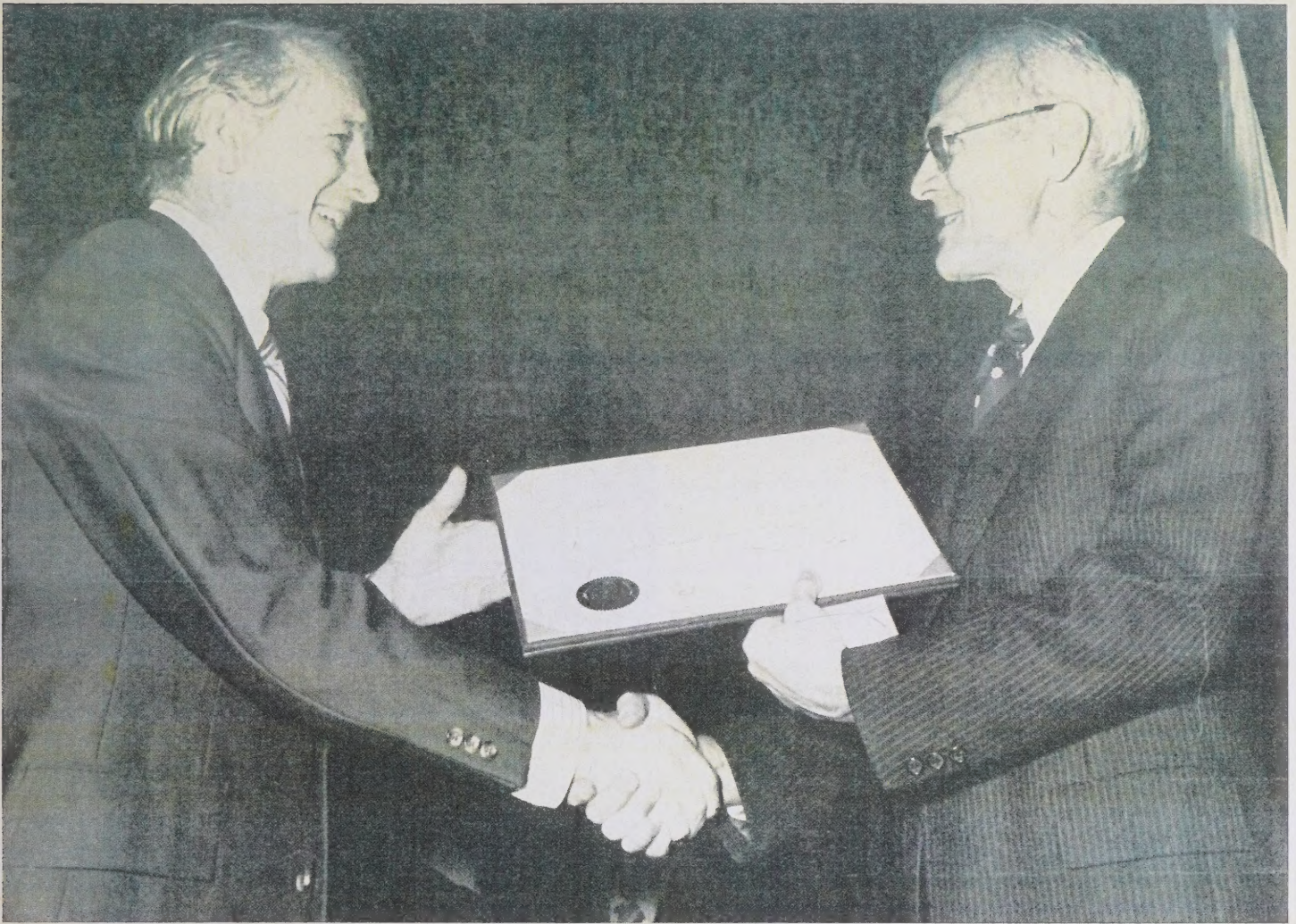
Administrators Honor McVee

Curtis V. McVee, director of the federal Bureau of Land Management in Alaska, Saturday night was named Public Administrator of the Year by the Southcentral Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration.

The award is presented annually to an individual who has shown outstanding ability in overall performance as a public administrator.

McVee, who has been with the bureau since 1950 and state director since 1971, was cited for "proving that sensitivity to environmental requirements is not incompatible with the administrative responsibilities of an Arctic land manager...." Awarding the plaque was Dr. Brewster Denny, dean of the School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington. Denny also was the key-note speaker.

McVee, father of four, joined the bureau in 1950 as a range conservationist. While with the bureau, he has worked in Montana, Nevada and Washington, D.C.



Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe presented Curt McVee the Department of Interior's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award in 1976. Kleppe cited McVee for his superior professional leadership as a key federal operating official in the field of resource management and administration in BLM.

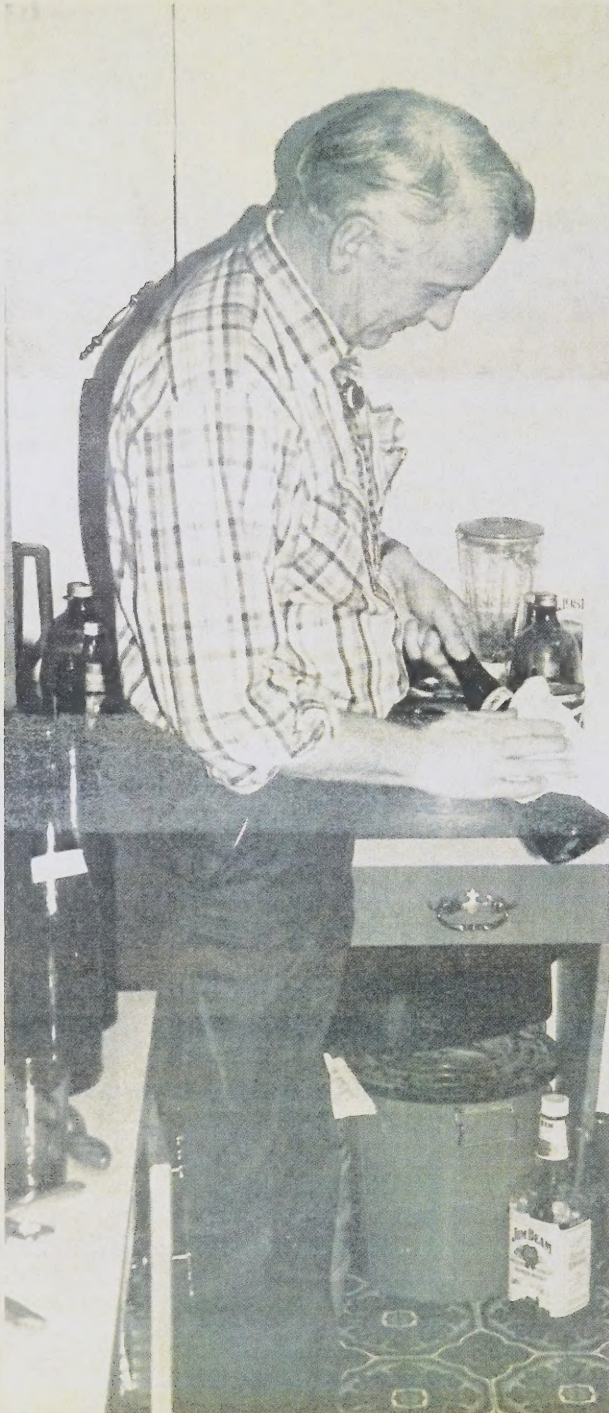


BLM State Director Curt McVee reached a landmark in July, celebrating 30 years of government service. Jerry Gilliland, special assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, presented McVee with a certificate and a 30-year pin during a small gathering at the State Office on July 10, 1980. Joining McVee were his wife Joyce, son Matthew, and Jerry Gilliland who presented the pin and certificate on behalf of the Department of the Interior.

During Curt's years as state director he received the Department of Interior's Meritorious Service Award in 1973 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1976. He also received the Senior Executive Service's Meritorious Service Award in 1980 and in 1982.

Curt traveled to the USSR twice to present papers at international conferences. In 1973 he presented "Permafrost Considerations in Land Use Planning" at the Second International Conference on Permafrost in Yakutsk, USSR, and in 1974, "Planning to Mitigate Environmental Impact" at the 13th International Geographical Conference in Leningrad, USSR.

Other Duties As Assigned...



Curt serves his homemade wine while entertaining BLM Director Bob Burford and friends.



State Director Curt McVee gets a warm birthday hug from "Flower" on his 49th birthday.



A successful fishing trip for BLM State Director Curtis McVee and Assistant Secretary Guy Martin.

HIGHLIGHTS OF McVEE'S ALASKA BLM CAREER

1971 - 1984

- Since ANCSA passed in 1971, Alaska BLM transferred to the Native community approximately 31 million acres.
- Alaska BLM transferred to the state of Alaska approximately 63 million acres.
- Curt participated in the federal/state land use planning commission established under ANCSA.
- 4,909 Native allotments approved and surveys requested. (245 prior to 1971) 562 certificates issued. (201 prior to 1971)
- Alaska BLM pioneered the automatic lightening detection system.
- Alaska BLM pioneered the first BLM automated land record system in the U.S.
- Alaska BLM developed the inertial guidance survey system marking a new era in surveying.
- 1976 - Alaska BLM installed the Dopler System, part of a new surveying era.
- Pipeline - construction, monitoring, and phase down. Interagency coordination.
- 1976 - Alaska conducted BLM pilot study using satellite imagery.
- Curt participated in the establishment of the Alaska Land Use Council.
- Section 1008 of ANICLA opened 7.7 million acres for oil and gas leasing.
- 1981 - Alaska Fire Service formed.
- Alaska Fire Service set up the Initial Attack management system.
- December 1981 - NPRA opened to oil and gas leasing. Three competitive lease sales held.
- 1982 - Alaska OCS office established. (now Minerals Management Service.)
- 1982 - Minerals Management onshore merged with BLM.



1980 - The state director signs the first 14(c) plan of survey. Surrounding McVee are (left to right) Ted Forsi of Ted Forsi & Assoc., consultants to Ounalashka Corp.; Wayne F. Lewis, representing the regional Aleut Corp.; Ounalashka Corp. President Vincent M. Tutiakoff Sr.; Jesse Burton, city manager of Unalaska; Bob Pickering, chief of BLM's Branch of Office Engineering; and Assistant to the State Director for ANCSA, Bob Arnold.

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1980 - Alaska BLM State Director Curtis V. McVee signs the first plat under newly delegated authority for approval of Alaska survey plats. Pictured left to right, Irving Zirpel, chief, Division of Cadastral; McVee; and Frank Gregg, BLM director.



Fiscal Year 1980 - State Director Curtis McVee holds state selection applications totaling one and a half million acres which BLM conveyed to the state of Alaska.

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